

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 GAC-01 TRSE-00 MBFR-03

SAJ-01 SS-15 NSC-10 DODE-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 RSR-01 /095 W

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FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1839

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCEUR FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, OPS AEAGG- OCO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFE FOR POLAD & OPS IMMEDIATE

USELMO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0876

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, WB, UR, GE

SUBJECT: NEW PASSES FOR ALLIED MLMS

REF: BERLIN 851

1. CHIEF SERB INFORMED CHIEF USMLM MAY 19 THAT PASSES MUST BE EXCHANGED MAY 21 OR 22 AND THAT AS OF MAY 23 OLD PASSES WOULD BE INVALID. BRITISH AND FRENCH MISSIONS HAVE BEEN SIMILARLY INFORMED. USMLM CHIEF HAD OPPORTUNITY TO CLOSELY EXAMINE NEW PASS AND, IN ADDITION TO NEW PHRASEOLOGY WITH REGARD TO " TERRITORY OF GDR" REPORTED REFTEL, FOLLOWING CHANGES OF POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE WERE NOTED:

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A. NEW PASSES ARE AUTHENTICATED BY CHIEF OF STAFF GSFG RATHER THAN BY CHIEF SERB:

B. THERE IS NO LONGER ANY SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO DOCUMENT BEING PASS AS WELL AS ID CARD:

C. ENTRY TO AREA OF DOCUMENT' S APPLICABILITY IS LIMITED TO POTSDAM BRIDGE.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF 1. A ABOVE IS THAT IT WOULD PROVIDE EXCUSE FOR RESTRICTING PRESENT PRACTICE OF CONTINUALLY ROTATING PERSONNEL ON DUTY IN GDR AT ANY ONE TIME. HUEBNER- MALINEN AGREEMENT PROVIDES FOR ACCREDITATION OF 14 PERSONNEL BUT USMLM HAS POOL OF APPROXIMATELY 30 ELIGIBLE FOR PASS SO THAT, WHILE BALANCE ARE RESTING, ON LEAVE OR INVOLVED IN WRITING TRIP REPORTS, 14 ARE CONTINUALLY ENGAGED IN ACTIVE OPERATIONS. WERE SOVIETS ABLE TO DELAY OR ELIMINATE THIS ROTATION ON EXCUSE THAT EACH NEW PASS REQUIRED PERSONAL SIGNATURE OF CHIEF OF STAFF, USMLM OPERATIONS WOULD BE SEVERELY RESTRICTED. CHANGE NOTED AT 1. B ABOVE MIGHT OPEN DOOR TO ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVEL, WHILE CHANGE 1. C COULD ELIMINATE PRESENT RIGHT TO USE MARIENBORN AND WARTHA CHECKPOINTS.

3. IF WE DO NOT BEGIN EXCHANGE OF PASSES OF PERSONNEL PRESENTLY ON TOUR BY 1500 MAY 21, USUAL PATTERN OF USMLM OPERATIONS WILL BE BROKEN BUT REAL CRUNCH COMES AFTERNOON MAY 22 BY WHICH TIME INSTRUCTIONS MUST BE RECEIVED. IT IS OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE THAT TRIPARTITELY AGREED LANGUAGE BE AVAILABLE TO ALLIED MISSIONS FOR RESPONSE TO SOVIETS BY THAT TIME. BY TUESDAY EVENING USMLM HOUSE AT POTSDAM WILL BE WELL-STOCKED WITH SUPPLIES, MANNED EXCLUSIVELY BY SINGLE PERSONNEL AND IN POSITION TO WITHSTAND PROTRACTED SIEGE.

4. BRITISH HAVE NOT YET EXPRESSED VIEWS ON MLM PASS SITUATION, BUT FRENCH INFORM US THAT THEY REGARD IT AS " A MATTER OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE" ON WHICH THEY SAY THEY LOOK TO US FOR SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: TWO POINTS APPEAR TO BE INVOLVED
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IN THIS MATTER, ONE OF PRINCIPLE, OTHER MLM' S OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY. POINT OF PRINCIPLE IS THAT NEW PASS WOULD INTRODUCE GDR INTO MLM EQUATION FOR FIRST TIME. ARTICLE 2 OF " AGREEMENT ON CONTROL MACHINERY IN GERMANY" OF 1944 AND IMPLEMENTING HUEBNER- MALININ AGREEMENT OF 1947 WHICH ESTABLISHED MLM' S PROVIDE FOR MISSIONS TO BE ATTACHED TO COMMANDERS OF RESPECTIVE MILITARY ZONES. STRONG IMPLICATION OF LANGUAGE IN NEW PASSES IS THAT GDR IS TO BE INTRODUCED IN SOME GUISE AS THIRD CONTRACTING PARTY AT LEAST TO EXTENT THAT ITS CONSENT COULD BE REQUIRED FOR MLM TO TRAVEL OVER ITS TERRITORY. THIS ULTIMATELY COULD HAVE SERIOUS IMPLICATIONS FOR GDR POSITION VIS A VIS OTHER ASPECTS OF QUADRIPARTITE RIGHTS AND

RESPONSIBILITIES, INCLUDING AIR CORRIDORS. WE BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT, THEREFORE, TO RESIST STRONGLY AT THIS TIME, SOVIET EFFORTS TO IMPOSE NEW PASSES.

6 OPERATIONAL FACTORS SOMEWHAT MORE SPECULATIVE. NEITHER AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHING MLM NOR PREVIOUS PASSES HAVE EVER SPECIFIED POINTS OF ENTRY. STRONG IMPLICATION OF REFERENCE TO POTSDAM BRIDGE AS VALID ENTRY POINT IS THAT SOVIETS FOR FIRST TIME ARE SEEKING TO RESTRICT MLM TO SINGLE ENTRY POINT. WHILE MOST ENTRIES HAVE BEEN OVER POTSDAM BRIDGE, MLM HAS BEEN CAREFUL TO MAKE USE OF MARIENBORN AND WARTHA POINTS OF ENTRY AT LEAST ONCE EACH MONTH TO PREVENT PRACTICE FOR STROPHYING. FACT IS, HOWEVER, OUR RIGHT TO USE SPECIFIC ENTRANCE POINTS IS BASED ONLY ON LONG- STANDING PRACTICE, NOT ON CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT. WHILE CHANGE TO CHIEF OF STAFF GSFG FROM CHIEF SERB AS AUTHENTICATING OFFICER OF PASS COULD, AS NOTED PARA 2 ABOVE, PROVIDE SOVIETS OPPORTUNITY TO INTERFERE WITH MLM PRACTICE OF ROTATING SOME 30 INDIVIDUALS TO KEEP 14 MEN IN FIELD AT ALL TIMES, WE CANNOT AT THIS POINT KNOW WHETHER THIS IS SOVIET INTENTION. UNDER PRESENT SYSTEM, MLM MEMBER FINISHING TOUR TURNS IN PASS, SOVIETS HAND OVER NEW PASS FOR HIS REPLACEMENT, AND INDIVIDUAL GETS BACK SAME PASS HE HAD TURNED IN WHEN HE IS READY FOR NEW TOUR. IF SOVIETS CONTINUE TO FOLLOW THIS OPERATING PROCEDURE, FACT THAT LESS ACCESSIBLE CHIEF OF STAFF OF GSFG HAS SIGNED PASS WOULD NOT MEAN DELAY IN GETTING MAN
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BACK INTO FIELD. OF COURSE PROCEDURE BY WHICH WE HAVE IN EFFECT BEEN ABLE TO MAKE USE OF 30- MAN TEAM IN ITSELF STRETCHES TERMS OF HUEBNER- MALININ AGREEMENT WHICH SAYS MISSIONS " WILL CONSIST OF NOT TO EXCEED 14 OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL" AND HAS ALWAYS DEPENDED UPON SOVIET COOPERATION.

7 TACTICALLY WE BELIEVE BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO INSIST ON SOVIETS RETURNING TO EXACT FORM OF PREVIOUS PASSES. THIS HAS ADVANTAGE OF ALLOWING US TO STAND GROUND ON BASIS OF ESTABLISHED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES WITHOUT ENGAGING IN DEBATE ON RESPECTIVE VALIDITY OR INVALIDITY OF VARIOUS CHANGES SOVIETS WISH TO INTRODUCE. IT SHOULD ALSO SIMPLIFY TASK OF OBTAINING ALLIED AGREEMENT ON COMMON RESPONSE. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THAT CHIEF OF MLM BE PROVIDED LETTER FROM USAREUR CHIEF OF STAFF TO GSFG CHIEF OF STAFF WHICH HE CAN PASS TO SOVIETS MAY 22 IF THEY STILL INSIST THAT MLM MUST ACCEPT NEW PASSES THAT DAY OR CEASE OPERATIONS LETTER MIGHT MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS: A) NEW PASSES WOULD BE UNILATERAL MODIFICATION OF LONG- ESTABLISHED PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES AND AS SUCH ARE UNACCEPTABLE: B) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS GSFG

IS PREPARED TO PROVIDE MLM WITH TRADITIONAL PASSES, WE
WILL CONSIDER PASSES USED BY SOVIET MLM IN US AREA OF
RESPONSIBILITY IN GERMANY TO BE SUSPENDED, AND SOVIET
MLM WILL ACCORDINGLY HAVE TO CONFIRM ITSELF TO
HEADQUARTERS. ON BALANCE, AND ESPECIALLY IN WAKE OF BREZHNEV
VISIT TO FRG, WE DOUBT SOVIETS, AT THIS POINT WOULD WANT TO PRESS
ISSUE TO POINT OF CONFRONTATION WITH ALLIES. WE WOULD HOPE
THAT BRITISH AND FRENCH MLM' S COULD BE INSTRUCTED TO TAKE PARALLED
ACTION. END COMMENT:.

8. USCOB CONCURS. KLEIN

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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